

The Giver

Chapters Seven–Eight

Literature Focus: Setting and Problem

Setting is one of the most important aspects of a novel. **Setting** includes:

- Time: historical time period, season, time of day
- Geographical location: weather, landforms, physical arrangement of locations
- General Environment: religious, mental, moral, and emotional conditions
- Social/Political Environment: daily manner of living, occupations, rules and government

Problem is the conflict that occurs in a novel. A desire to see the problem resolved encourages the reader to keep reading a book. In *The Giver*, the novel's setting contributes to the conflicts and problems that occur.

Part A

Directions: Complete the questions below with information about the setting of the novel. Be sure to include when the novel takes place, time of year, weather, landforms, and the homes and buildings in the community.

Time

1. When does the novel take place? _____

2. What season or time of year is it? _____

3. Without seasons, how does the community keep time? _____

Geography

4. Describe the homes and buildings in the community. _____

5. How does the Sameness in the community's geography parallel the community's structures and values? _____

Name _____ Period _____

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General Environment

6. Explain the community's religious and moral beliefs. _____

7. Explain how individual thought and personal decision-making is stifled in this community. _____

8. What problems might be created in a society that puts the needs of the community above all personal/individual desires? _____

Social/Political Environment

9. How do citizens select a career? How do Assignments complement the community's goals? _____

10. What aspects of citizens' daily lives does the government control? _____

11. What problems might occur because of this? _____
